



## Press Release

### Centre of Expertise in Visualisation launched

Sydney, November 14, 2001

The Australian Centre of Advanced Computing and Communications (**ac3**) today launched its Centre of Expertise in Visualisation. The launch coincides with the SC2001 Global High Performance Computing Conference being held in Denver in the USA, as well as in 50 other distributed centres throughout the world, including Sydney.

“This Centre of Expertise in Visualisation is a major step for Australia” said Dr Philip McCrea, CEO of **ac3**. “Programs that run on High Performance Computers frequently generate very large data sets, and often the only way to interpret the results of these large data sets is to visualise them. The eye is very good at detecting detail and patterns much better than computers. This is particularly the case when the data sets are not representations of real world data such as the built or natural environment, but instead represent very large transactions”.

The new Centre builds on the existing body of visualisation expertise in Sydney VisLab, which has been in operation for the last 9 years. The VisLab Director, Professor Bernard Pailthorpe from the University of Sydney, is also the Director of the **ac3** Centre of Expertise in Visualisation.

“We are very excited by being part of the **ac3** research programme”, said Professor Pailthorpe. “VisLab is in the business of carrying out research into visualisation, and in so doing assisting researchers from a range of disciplines meaningfully interpret and demonstrate the results of their computer models.”

Establishment of the Centre of Expertise in Visualisation was made possible by a generous grant from the Australian Partnership for Advanced Computing (APAC). “We decided to support users of high performance computing systems by funding our partners to develop centres of expertise that focus on key technologies and applications”, said Professor John O’Callaghan, Executive Director of APAC. “At **ac3**, we are supporting two centres of expertise – one in Visualisation, and the other in Computational Finance”.

APAC, Sydney VisLab and **ac3** are sponsoring the Australian participation in the SC2001 Global High Performance Computing Conference. The

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conference, based in Denver, is being shared around the world over the Internet to 50 key centres as part of a global *Access Grid*.

The Access Grid is a collaborative computing environment which builds on digital video conferencing to support large-scale distributed meetings, collaborative work sessions, seminars, lectures, tutorials and training. Sydney VisLab has built the first Access Grid node in Australia, at the Australian Technology Park, where one entire wall of VisLab has been converted into a giant video-conferencing screen. Because the Access Grid provides high bandwidth symmetrical communication, this enables several of the SC2001 speakers to give presentations to the global audience from Sydney.

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**The Australian Centre for Advanced Computing (ac3)** is a High Performance Computing Centre, based at the Australian Technology Park at Eveleigh, near the Sydney CBD. **ac3** provides specialist high performance computing services to a range of sectors, particularly Financial Services, Government and Education. For more information contact the CEO, Dr Philip McCrea on (02) 9209 4601 or [pmc@ac3.com.au](mailto:pmc@ac3.com.au), or visit [www.ac3.com.au](http://www.ac3.com.au).

**Sydney VisLab** is operated by a consortium of Universities to provide visualisation support to researchers in NSW and Australia, and to carry out research into advanced visualisation techniques. VisLab's main locations are at the school of Physics and Sydney University and at the Australian Technology Park. For more information contact Professor Bernard Pailthorpe, the Director on (02) 9351 5901, or [bap@vislab.usyd.edu.au](mailto:bap@vislab.usyd.edu.au), or visit [www.vislab.usyd.edu.au](http://www.vislab.usyd.edu.au).

**The Australian Partnership for Advanced Computing (APAC)** was established by the Federal Government to strengthen Australia's advanced computing and communications capabilities. APAC has established a National Facility at ANU to provide a world-class peak computing service to the Australian research community. For more information contact Professor John O'Callaghan on 0419 413 148 or [john.ocallaghan@apac.edu.au](mailto:john.ocallaghan@apac.edu.au) or visit [www.apac.edu.au](http://www.apac.edu.au).